

# e-Parliament Hearing on Sustainable Energy for All

Amboseli National Park, Kenya, 17-19 November, 2006

**Co-sponsored by the e-Parliament and the World Future Council**

## Summary report

The e-Parliament held an international parliamentary hearing on climate and energy at the Ol Tukai Lodge in the Amboseli game reserve, immediately following the 2006 Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention in Nairobi. The question addressed by the hearing was: **"How to face the climate challenge while ensuring that everyone has access to energy?"**



*A view of Kilimanjaro, with its melting icecap, from the Ol Tukai Lodge*

Using the format of a parliamentary committee hearing, 19 national and regional legislators from 13 African and European countries heard presentations from leading experts on energy policy. The hearing began by focusing on the dangers of climate change, including the potentially catastrophic consequences for Africa.



*e-Parliament chair, Anders Wijkman MEP, addressing the hearing*

The parliamentarians were then able to pose detailed questions to the experts regarding specific actions that they could promote in their national parliaments to accelerate the transition to a highly energy-efficient world economy powered by sustainable energy, in which even the poorest citizens have access to modern energy services. In the final session, the various action ideas were assessed by the parliamentarians with a view to action in national parliaments.

## **Participants:**

### **Members of Parliament:**

- Dr. Kwame Ampofo MP, Ghana: *Ranking Opposition member, Energy Committee*
- Mr. Axel Berg MdB, Germany: *Member, Industry and Technology Committee*
- Mr. David Chaytor MP, United Kingdom: *Chair of e-Parliament Energy Network*
- Ms. Dorette Corbey MEP, Netherlands, *Member, Environment Committee*
- Ms. Akua Dansua MP, Ghana: *Minority Spokesperson on Gender and Children*
- Mr. Konimba Dembele MP, Mali: *Chair of Energy Committee*
- Ms. Avril Doyle MEP, Ireland: *Member, Environment Committee, European Parlt*
- Ms. Anne-Grete Holmsgaard MP: Monaco: *Vice-Chair of Energy Committee*
- Mr. John A. Kigyagi MP, Uganda: *Vice-Chair of Energy Committee*
- Mr. Augustine Lotodo MP, Kenya: *Member of East African Legislative Assembly*
- Mr. Moffat Maitha MP, Kenya: *Member of the Kenyan Parliament*
- Mr. Chris Molefe MP, South Africa: *Member of Minerals and Energy Committee*
- Mr. Mutinda Mutiso MP, Kenya: *Member of the Kenyan Parliament*
- Mr. George Nangale MP, Tanzania, EALA: *Member, Trade & Investment Cttee.*
- Ms. Fatimata Niambali MP, Mali: *Secretary, Mali Parliamentary Group on Energy*
- Dr. Wale Okediran MP, Nigeria: *Member of e-Parliament Council*
- Dr. Ruth Rabinowitz MP, South Africa: *Member, Minerals and Energy Committee*
- Mr. Sammy Weya MP, Kenya: *Member of the Kenyan Parliament*
- Mr. Anders Wijkman MEP, Sweden: *Chair of e-Parliament Council*

### **Experts:**

- Mr. Stephen Karakezi: *Director, Energy, Environment and Development Network for Africa/Foundation for Woodstove Dissemination*
- Mr. Paul Kirai: *National Project Manager, Global Environmental Facility-Kenyan Association of Manufacturers Industrial Energy Efficiency Project*
- Ms. Paivi Koljonen: *Senior Energy Economist, Africa Region, World Bank.*
- Mr. Miguel Mendonca: *Researcher, World Future Council*

- Dr. Marianne Moscoso-Osterkorn: *International Director, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)*
- Dr. Alfred Ofosu-Ahenkorah: *Executive Secretary, Ghana Energy Commission*
- Mr. Jakob Schmidt-Reindahl: *GTZ (German Development Agency) Nairobi*
- Dr. Ibrahim Togola: *Director of the Mali Folkecentre.*
- Dr. Njeri Wamukonya: *Energy Programme Officer, UN Environment Programme*
- Mr. Gregory Woodsworth: *Energy and Environmental Policy Advisor, United Nations Development Programme*

### **Secretariat:**

- Mr. Nicholas Dunlop, *Secretary-General, e-Parliament.*
- Ms. Sally Garden, *Programme Officer, e-Parliament.*
- Mr. Jesper Grolin, *Executive Director, e-Parliament.*

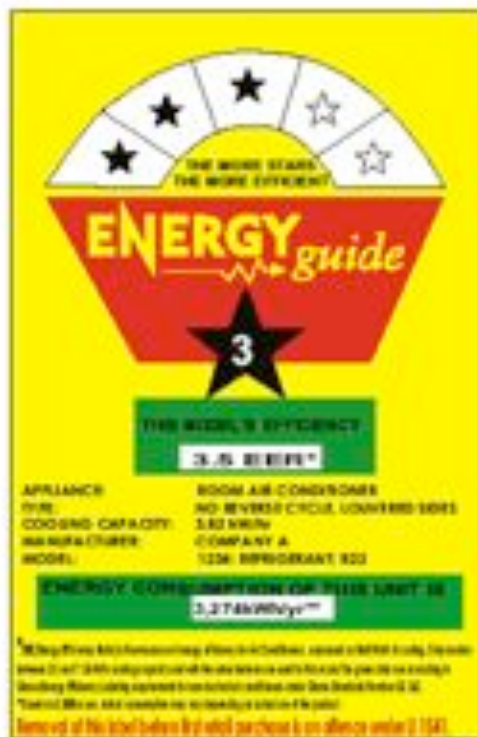
## **2. Action ideas discussed**

Each expert gave a detailed presentation highlighting at least one or two steps which legislators could promote in their national parliaments. Here are just some of the policy ideas which were discussed. On the e-Parliament website at [www.e-parl.net](http://www.e-parl.net), you will find links to the experts' PowerPoint slides providing more detailed information on some of these ideas.

### ***Create energy efficiency labels, standards and targets***

The importance of energy efficiency measures for both developed and developing countries was emphasised by several speakers. Energy conservation -- in buildings, machinery, transport, etc -- is by far the cheapest source of "new" energy supplies. In developing countries, the energy made available through efficiency measures can be used to help increase energy access.

One policy measure which generated great interest among the legislators was the new energy efficiency labelling system for electric appliances being pioneered by Ghana with support from REEEP. Few African countries have any labelling systems for energy efficiency and citizens have no way of knowing, when purchasing an appliance, how the energy costs compare with those of similar machines. Research has shown that some of the most energy-efficient appliances can also be among the cheapest to buy. In Ghana, the labelling system is beginning with air-conditioners, which are major consumers of energy in hot climates, and the scheme will soon be extended to refrigerators and other appliances. As can be seen below, the new label rates each machine using a star system, it includes the likely energy savings, and it estimates the money which consumers could save depending on the machine's efficiency.



*Ghana's efficiency label for room air-conditioners, which contains information on the manufacturer, the indicative annual energy consumption of the appliance, and an energy efficiency star rating.*

In the course of the discussion, it became clear that legislators in other African countries might be able to replicate the energy label, perhaps in the long run spreading it across the continent. The Kenyan MPs reported that a new Energy Bill would be before Parliament within a few days, and they believed that this idea could be introduced in the debate. REEEP is very interested in helping to replicate the Ghanaian initiative in other countries, and may be able to contribute some funding for research or other associated work. By influencing consumer decisions, such a label could simultaneously save people money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and free up energy resources.

### ***Establish renewable energy feed-in tariffs***

There was detailed discussion of the approaches taken in Germany and Mauritius, among other countries, to guarantee renewable energy producers a favourable and stable price for the electricity they feed into to the national grid. German legislation has encouraged a rapid build-up of its wind and solar power industries by means of feed-in tariffs set at levels that make these renewable sources of energy economically attractive. In the process, it has also created an estimated new 170,000 jobs. Mauritius used a similar approach to encourage sugar processing factories to generate electricity from the sugar cane waste (bagasse) which they produce. The biomass generators in those sugar factories now contribute 20% of the nation's electricity supply. Feed-in tariffs to encourage the development of renewable energy could easily be replicated by countries not yet using them. The German law is already available in a number of languages (contact [info@e-parl.net](mailto:info@e-parl.net)), and has already led to similar initiatives in some other countries.

### ***Raise awareness among parliamentarians and citizens***

All the legislators agreed that increasing public awareness of the threat of climate change as well as the many opportunities for shifting to sustainable energy, is a key component in generating the necessary political will. Parliamentarians have many opportunities to help educate their own colleagues and the public at large. It was suggested that the e-Parliament could produce a generic PowerPoint presentation, tailored for each region, which legislators could use in meetings. There was also discussion of the need for greater information and consultation between donor agencies and national parliaments about energy programmes. Parliaments could invite donor agencies to provide regular briefings for legislators.

### ***Support improved cooking stoves***

The bulk of the energy used by the poorest citizens is for cooking. The demand for wood-fuel is contributing to deforestation and to lung disease caused by indoor smoke, which kills more than a million people every year. The parliamentarians heard about the success which Kenya has had in producing a clay-line bucket stove which reduces charcoal consumption by 30-50%. With some government support for basic infrastructure, and by easing up on taxes and licences for small-scale producers, Kenya has created a thriving industry which has already produced some 15 million efficient cookstoves.



*Parliamentarians in session, from left to right: Sammy Weya MP (Kenya), Dr. Ruth Rabinowitz MP (South Africa), Dr. Wale Okediran MP (Nigeria), George Nangale MP (Tanzania), Mutinda Mutiso MP (Kenya), and Chris Molefe MP (South Africa).*

### ***Reduce regulatory burden on small energy producers***

Just as Kenya eased tax and administrative burdens on producers of stoves, so Nepal has done with small-scale hydro energy producers. Any

enterprise producing less than 1 MW needs no licence, can set its own tariff without government interference, and has a simplified tax payment system. This has helped to give Nepal thousands of small-scale hydro operators, producing energy for productive uses such as grinding grain and lighting. The same approach could be applied in other countries.

### ***Press for increased government resources***

Energy access, clean energy and technical training need to receive far greater support from governments in both South and North. Developing renewable energy industries can reduce the impact of volatile oil prices on the national economy, and can help communities which are far from the National Grid to gain access to energy from mini-hydro, wind, solar or biomass energy. Where climate-friendly energy costs more than fossil fuels, donor countries should help to make up the difference through financial assistance. This is already done to some extent through the Global Environment Facility and the Clean Development Mechanism, but far greater resources are needed for these and similar programmes. Since parliamentarians approve national budgets, they have many opportunities to press for more resources. Some of the participants in the hearing have already done so, generating substantial additional funds. Southern parliamentarians should also urge their governments to give greater attention to energy access and clean energy in presenting their needs to donor agencies.

The need for greater government support for research and development of renewable energy technologies was also recognized, as was the need for less bureaucratic funding mechanisms, such as Kenya's constituency development funds.

### ***Support self-help electrification***

Another Ghanaian initiative which could easily be replicated in other countries is a programme under which a community within 20 km of the National Grid can install its own wiring, after which the government is committed to extending the grid and supply that community with electricity.

### ***Integrate energy programmes into national planning***

More than one participant stressed the importance of highlighting energy priorities in national investment plans and in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers in developing countries, and of ensuring active parliamentary oversight of the implementation of those plans. Several parliamentarians stressed the importance of coordinating energy policies more closely with other environment and development policies.

### ***Strengthen parliamentary leadership in combating deforestation***

It was remarked that tropical forest nations in the 2006 climate negotiations had been urging greater financial support from donor nations to help ensure that the remaining forests are preserved. Some of this support could be generated through carbon-trading schemes in the industrialised countries. Forests and desertification account for more than

20% of global carbon dioxide emissions. There is no need, however, to wait for the slow-moving climate negotiations to reach a conclusion on this. Legislators from South and North could work together, with Northern colleagues pressing for more resources, and Southern colleagues ensuring that new funds will be spent with maximum effectiveness.



*Coffee break discussion: (from left to right) Dr. Ibrahim Togola, Director, Mali Folkecentre, Dr. Kwame Ampofo, MP, (Ghana), and Konimba Dembele, MP, (Mali).*

**With regard to the role of the e-Parliament itself, and the other organisations represented in the hearing, the discussion highlighted the following key tasks:**

***Facilitate expert advice***

When legislators are taking initiatives in their parliaments on ideas such as those listed here, they can benefit greatly from the advice by leading experts from around the world. The e-Parliament should help to facilitate ongoing connections between parliamentarians and experts, just as it has done in this hearing. The organisations presenting to the hearing, such as the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, REEEP, the World Future Council, AFREPREN/FWD, the Mali Folkecentre, the GEF and the Ghana Energy Commission, are among those which can provide valuable ongoing advice. It is even possible that the World Bank may be able to provide consultants to assist in drafting model legislation on some of the ideas discussed. Parliamentarians could also make good use of sample parliamentary questions to ministers as well as facts and figures which can help to establish the financial case for promoting clean energy and access to energy for the poor.

***Keep parliamentarians in touch with each other***

Some of the parliamentarians present at the hearing, and others who participate in future e-Parliament hearings, will be working on similar

issues in their own parliaments. The e-Parliament should help to keep them in touch through an electronic newsletter, and occasional conference calls and/or meetings to allow them to learn from each other's experience as they move ahead.

### ***Regional e-Parliament Secretariat***

A number of the parliamentarians were interested in exploring the establishment of e-Parliament regional Secretariat in their cities, which could be funded by a combination of government, private sector and development agency resources. These regional Secretariat would help to gather examples of best practice in legislation and policy around the regions, and to organise an ongoing series of hearings such as the one held at Amboseli. They would thus steadily help to build the capacity of parliaments to deal with energy and other critical issues.

### ***Follow up in Kenya and elsewhere***

Through the Kenyan parliamentarians present in Amboseli, the hearing has already had an impact on a new Energy Bill which has recently been enacted by the Kenyan Parliament. The wording has been strengthened in a number of places in the Act, energy efficiency labelling has been highlighted, and the section on renewable energy has been expanded.

Paul Kirai, who presented at the hearing, sent the following report:

"I promised to follow-up with the two parliamentarians who were present at the hearing regarding the passing of the Energy Act 2006 of the Republic of Kenya – on which I am currently advising the Ministry about its implementation, particularly in regard to energy efficiency and conservation. Hon. George Weya is a member of the Energy Committee and he brought into the debate a lot of what was discussed in Amboseli, some of it verbatim and some with of it with some colour. I have looked at the Hansard during the days of the debate (Nov 21 - Dec 6) and as you can see, Hon Weya made a sizeable contribution. He quoted Amboseli and made reference to many of the speakers who presented during the hearing, and in particular, Ghana.

I spoke to Hon. Mutiso as well who assured me the debate was very lively but he is not a member of the Energy Committee. Nevertheless, he was able to share his views with many of the Committee members after he was enlightened at Amboseli. He highly appreciated the exposure. Mr Weya together with his fellow members were able to introduce amendments in the Act to capture renewable energy, co-generation, Energy Standards and labels, energy efficiency, climate change and carbon trading. I can confirm that we now have a better Energy Act than we had before Amboseli!"

Following the Amboseli Hearing, the Ugandan Natural Resources Committee has requested information through the e-Parliament on approaches taken in different countries on oil and gas legislation, as

Uganda is now preparing new legislation to cover recent finds in the country, and is keen to avoid the "resource curse" many developing countries face when the discovery of oil leads to increased inflation and undermines good governance. The e-Parliament Secretariat has put the Committee directly in touch with experts who have worked on developing similar policy in São Tomé and Príncipe (STP). The Committee has told the Secretariat that they have found this information invaluable, and that they now plan to work with these experts, and with legislators from São Tomé and Príncipe to learn from their experience. A number of elements in the STP legislation are likely to be replicated in Uganda.

The Ugandan Natural Resources Committee has also requested information from the e-Parliament Secretariat regarding policies for addressing the environmental damage caused by discarded polythene bags. In response to this request, the e-Parliament prepared a document outlining the different approaches taken to this problem in a number of countries around the world, and the outcomes of those policies. Based on this information, the Committee has recently sought the permission of the House to introduce a private members bill banning polythene bags of 100 microns or less. This is a policy that is likely to have considerable impact in Uganda, where discarded polythene bags are a real problem.

Meanwhile, as another result of the hearing, Axel Berg MdB of Germany has been invited by his Ghanaian colleagues to come to Ghana to brief legislators there on the German renewable energy feed-in tariff law, of which Axel Berg was a co-author. This is being done in the context of a series of workshops on "Energy Legislation and Sustainable Development" being organised as a follow-up to Amboseli by a group of e-Parliament members in Ghana and the Parliamentary Select Committee on Mines and Energy, to help build the capacity of legislators in this field. The e-Parliament Secretariat is also helping to provide Ghana with relevant information on the Mauritius legislation which led to the generation of 20% of Mauritius' electricity from sugar cane waste. Ghana is currently in the process of preparing new legislation on renewable energy, and a new law has been proposed, modeled on the German feed-in law.

Dr. Ruth Rabinowitz has also helped to put Dr. Berg and Miguel Mendonca in touch with the South African Energy regulator, to discuss the German renewable energy feed-in tariff. The Regulator is keen to discuss the German model with Dr. Berg and Mr. Mendonca, to see what South Africa can learn from the German example. Dr. Berg is now exploring the possibility of a trip to South Africa to speak with the regulator directly.

These are examples of how the e-Parliament process can help legislators to move from talk to action.

The results of the Amboseli hearing were presented by Dr. Kwame Ampofo MP of Ghana to an e-Parliament workshop on climate change and energy held in Cape Town in March 2007. The workshop, involving about 50 parliamentarians, formed part of the annual conference of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank. It included a briefing from Bruce Hewitson, a South African member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) who is one of the leaders of the IPCC's work on the regional effects of climate change. Suresh Prabhu MP of India,

member of the e-Parliament Council and a former Minister of Industry, Energy and the Environment, also made a presentation on what developing country legislators can do about climate change. The workshop generated great interest among the participating legislators, both in the climate issue and in the e-Parliament process.